| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh | 3 | — |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | 1 | Includes seizure of 1 skin |
| 10. | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | Includes seizure of 2 skins |
| 11. | Goa | 1 | — |
| 12. | Orissa | 1 | — |
| 13. | Delhi | 2 | Includes seizure of 2 skins |
| 14. | Kerala | 1 | — |
| | TOTAL | 59 | Includes seizure of 7 skins |

**River pollution**

†1877. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees have been spent by Government to make the rivers pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been successful in making the rivers pollution free despite spending crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of work-plan chalked out by Government to make the rivers pollution free in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The efforts towards conservation of rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, GAP Phase-II (GAP-II) was initiated which included the tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar. The Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. This Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 States. Pollution abatement schemes under NRCP include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood crematoria etc. An expenditure of Rs.3955 crore has been incurred and sewage treatment capacity of nearly 4000 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far. The schemes are implemented on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and State Governments through implementing agencies of the States.

The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

compounds the challenge. Based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions on some of the major rivers under NRCP, the water quality in terms of BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) values has improved at most locations as compared to water quality before taking up of pollution abatement schemes.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in river conservation through the central plans. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

The Government has initiated an exercise for revamping the river conservation strategy to promote a holistic and integrated river basin approach. The Central Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) on 20.2.2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning.

**Conservation of ponds in Madhya Pradesh**

†1878. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal, worth Rs. 256 crore for development and conservation of 10 ponds, has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard, so far and by when the proposed sanctioned amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal entitled 'Conservation and Management of Lakes in Bhopal' at total cost of Rs.256 crores was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for financial assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The proposal has been included in the reprioritized list of projects of Ministry of Environment and Forests for JICA assistance and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for posing to Government of Japan under ODA Loan Package during FY 2009.

**Forest cover**

†1879. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for pollution free environment 33 per cent forest cover out of total geographic area is essential;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.